

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Poultry and Products

Trade Show Closing

Grain and Feed

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Current news on agriculture and USDA in Iraq for October 2013

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

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October 2013

Council of Ministers Lifts Ban on Arkansas Poultry: Walid Sharif and Dr. Talib from the FAS Baghdad office met with Dr. Ebtisam, Director General (DG) of the Department of Committee Affairs, Council of Ministers (COM) in her office on October 24, 2013. The FAS team provided a brief introduction to the role of FAS in Baghdad and noted the benefits of cooperation between the two offices in resolving outstanding issues in the future. The DG confirmed in writing that the COM decided to lift the ban that had been in place which prevented imports the origin of which was the state of Arkansas. In addition to poultry market access, FAS staff talked about an upcoming DVC being planned for mid-November to discuss the OIE risk status for U.S. beef with the goal of market access for this line of products. The target audience is a small group of Iraqi Food Safety Committee members including DG Ebtisam who was delighted with the idea and agreed to attend.

The 6th Iraq International Exhibition for Agriculture, Food Processing, and Packaging, Erbil, November 18-21, 2013: More than 16,000 visitors attended the Iraq Agro –food exhibition in 2012, including senior Kurdistan Regional Government officials, local and international companies, direct end-users, agents, and distributors. Iraq's agro-food sector is currently expanding by 25% annually. Imports account for 85% of total food consumption.

Iraqi Wheat production for 2012-2013, 3.2 MMT: At 3.2 MMT, Iraq's wheat production in 2012/13 was the highest in recent years. The main reason for this increase was due to the adequate rainfall and irrigation water that was available during the growing season. The Iraqi Grain Board bought the 2013 local crop for a premium price of \$660/MT to encourage local wheat production. The goal for this coming season, 2013/14, in irrigated area is to increase wheat production area by 20-50%. This ambitious target will depend on water availability in different provinces. Production of corn and rice is still low and covers a small percentage of domestic demand. In terms of area, the MOA plan for 2013 was 206 and 106 thousand hectares for corn and rice, respectively. However, the actual planted areas were only 88,000 and 80,000 hectares for corn and rice, respectively.

25 Ministry of Agriculture Veterinarians To Attend Workshop on Developing a National Policy to Control Infectious Diseases in Iraq, December 2-5, 2013: The U.S Department of State's Biosecurity Engagement program, in cooperation with implementing partner Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) has invited 25 veterinarians from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture for a 4-day workshop which will review the status of veterinary services, assess the status of disease control in Iraq and regionally, evaluate methods for disease prioritization and control, and discuss next steps for enhancing disease control in Iraq. This workshop will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.